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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 3272**
Masao IENO et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2005_2019A
Serial No. 10/563,633 : Group Art Unit 4161
Filed January 6, 2006 : Examiner T. Simmons-Willis

SUSTAINED-RELEASE POLYMER FOR : **Mail Stop: AMENDMENT**
AMINO ACID DERIVATIVE, COSMETIC
AND FIBER STRUCTURE CONTAINING THE
SAME AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING AND
FOR REGENERATING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of October 2, 2008, constituting a requirement for restriction among Groups I-V, Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Group I, i.e. claims 1-14, drawn to a sustained-release polymer. This election is made while reserving Applicants' rights under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application for the non-elected subject matter of claims 15-22.

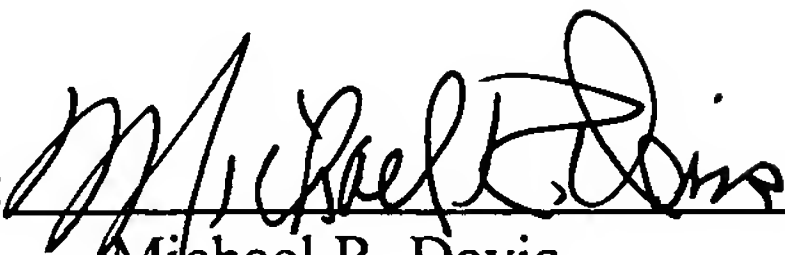
The Examiner places claim 21 in Group V. However, like claims 17-18, claim 21 is drawn to a fiber structure. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 should be grouped with Group IV instead of Group V.

The Examiner characterizes the Group V claims as being drawn to a method of making a fiber structure. However, claims 20 and 22 are directed to a method for regeneration of a sustained-released polymer, rather than the method of making a fiber structure.

Action on the merit is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Masao IENO et al.

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